

Upon entering a restaurant, one would probably notice immediately the clicking and clacking of big woks that are used to stir fry. People speaking in a foreign language, which is usually Cantonese, would also be noticeable to an outsider. Those who do not understand the language might wonder if the old ladies laughing together are cursing in Cantonese because of the intonation.

The number of Asian people in the area is to be expected. The signs of business establishments are usually written in Chinese characters. This implies that the businesses really intend to primarily cater to Chinese people more than any other groups.

Foods

One can find in any Chinatown different culinary ingredients that are not common in Western kitchens. This could include a pack of bamboo shoots or cured eggs that are a thousand year old. Tea can also be found everywhere along with its accompanying ceramic cups.

Chinatown foods, not just in Flushing but in all other Chinatowns, have connections to traditional recipes. Many have been reinvented, of course, but the general idea of the recipe remains. Some of these foods include the General Tso chicken, dumplings, and many other viands cooked with oyster sauce. The general idea is to provide a good balance of different tastes such as sweetness, spiciness, saltiness, acidity, and everything else that comes in between.

The most common sight that would welcome one's entry to many of the restaurants in the area is an aquarium that usually contains catfish, crabs, prawns, and lobsters. Most of the time, after they are cooked, they are served with either plain rice or fried rice.